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awake that five o'clock the next morning found him reading the closing pages, and wishing to write to the authors to send him on immediately "another of the same."

WYNDHAM'S "POEMS OF SHAKSPERE."

THE POEMS OF SHAKSPERE. Edited, with an Introduction and Notes, by George Wyndham. 8vo, pp. cxlvii, 343. New York and Boston; T. Y. Crowell & Company, 1898.

This handsome volume represents much scholarly and valuable work. The Sonnets of Shakspeare have, of course, been gaining in reputation and in the affection of readers for the last fifty years, but the narrative poems of Shakspeare have been overshadowed by the dramas, and even in the case of the Sonnets esthetic considerations have frequently been forced to yield to the interests of biography and historical criticism. Mr. Wyndham's volume has the rare merit of insisting upon the beauty and importance of the "Venus and Adonis" and the "Rape of Lucrece" and of treating the Sonnets as poems of imperishable beauty rather than as documents for the solution of perennial mysteries connected with "Mr. W. H." and the "Dark Lady."

We have read the Introduction with great interest and the Notes with scarcely less. Perhaps a more experienced critic might have arranged his matter to better advantage, but it would be mere hypercriticism to fail to acknowledge the excellence of Mr. Wyndham's treatment of his fascinating subject, taken as a whole. We could wish that he had stressed more the parallel with Michelangelo's sonnets and that he had transferred to the Introduction some of the important points he makes in the Notes as to the identity of "Mr. W. H.," the "Dark Lady," and the "Rival Poets;" but we repeat that these are trifling matters.

It is impossible to enter here upon a minute examination of this admirable book, but we may say that we think Mr. Wyndham's conservative attitude toward the speculations of other critics and editors is amply justified. He seems to us to overthrow Mr. Sidney Lee's recent arguments in favor of Southampton as the dedicatee of the Sonnets, and

he is by no means blind to the difficulties that lie in the way of the complete acceptance of Mrs. Mary Fitton as the fickle brunette who caused Shakspeare so much pain. Whether his contention that Drayton was Shakspeare's chief rival will hold is a matter of doubt, but it is certainly ingenious. His arguments with regard to the dates to be assigned to the Sonnets seem to us to be exceptionally strong, and we are altogether greatly impressed by the sanity and thoroughness of the scholarship visible on every page. We feel that we are, therefore, doing a service to the public when we recommend Mr. Wyndham's work most cordially, for it brings out effectively the marvelous beauty of poems which have been too long eclipsed by the glorious dramas of their author.